

Question for written answer E-005215/2021

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

Nikos Androulakis (S&D)

Subject: Spain-Turkey deal

On Wednesday 17 November, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez met President Erdogan in Turkey to discuss the announced wide-ranging armaments programme. Following work on the construction of an aircraft carrier that has already begun, the new programme concerns mainly the supply of submarines and other equipment for the Turkish Navy.

Turkey has been repeatedly infringing the sovereign rights of Greece and Cyprus, continually encroaching on their airspace and harassing vessels within the Greek and Cypriot EEZ. In addition, Turkey has been threatening war against Greece since 1994, a threat reiterated by members of the Turkish Government, including Turkish President Erdogan. On 17 September 2020, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the implementation of Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, seeking an arms embargo on Turkey.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission consider the deal struck between Spain and Turkey to be compatible with Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, in particular criterion four on regional security and criterion five on the national security of the Member States and their territories?
2. What action is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy planning to take to ensure compliance with the Common Position?
3. Does he intend to table the European Parliament proposal for an arms embargo on Turkey to the Foreign Affairs Council?